**Appendix 2: Characteristics of included patients with radiography available, compared to excluded subjects for whom radiography was not performed and patients with missing data, that were imputed (N=3106). [posted as supplied by author]**

| Characteristics and outcome | X-ray performed | No X-ray performed (excluded) | Missing | P-value[†] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N=2848* | N=258 | N (%) | |
| Age in years; mean (SD) | 50 (SD 17) | 44 (SD 17) | 0 (0) | <0.001* |
| Male gender | 1139 (40%) | 104 (41%) | 0 (0) | 0.88 |
| Current smoking | 1534 (54%) | 153 (60%) | 5 (0.2) | 0.062 |
| Pack years of smoking; mean (SD) | 9.1 (SD 16) | 8.2 (SD 15) | 46 (1.5) | 0.38 |
| Any long-term illness, health problem, or handicap present, limiting daily activities | 524 (22%) | 24 (20%) | 644 (21)[‡] | 0.45 |
| Pulmonary comorbidity | 478 (17%) | 52 (20%) | 3 (0.1) | 0.15 |
| Cardiovascular comorbidity | 263 (9%) | 27 (10%) | 4 (0.1) | 0.49 |
| Diabetes | 183 (6%) | 16 (6%) | 5 (0.2) | 0.91 |
| Number of cough episodes past year; mean (SD) | 1.9 (SD 3) | 1.5 (SD 2) | 703 (23)[‡] | 0.15 |
| Duration illness prior to consultation; mean number of days (SD) | 9.7 (SD 10) | 9.3 (SD 7) | 31 (1.0) | 0.50 |
| General toxicity | 743 (26%) | 56 (22%) | 9 (0.3) | 0.15 |
| Temperature; mean (SD) | 36.7 (SD 0.6) | 36.7 (SD 0.6) | 30 (1.0) | 0.67 |
| Any medication prescribed for this illness during this consultation | 2008 (71%) | 178 (70%) | 7 (0.2) | 0.71 |
| Outcome: | | | | |
| Days until recovery; mean (SD) | 12.3 (SD 6) | 11.9 (SD 6) | 1246 (40)[‡] | 0.19 |
| Visit GP out of hours service | 15 (1%) | 0 (0%) | 730 (24)[‡] | 0.39 |
| Visit Emergency Department | 28 (1%) | 0 (0%) | 729 (24)[‡] | 0.24 |
| Hospital admission | 12 (0.5%) | 0 (0%) | 678 (22)[‡] | 0.45 |

* From this group, 28 patients with radiographs of insufficient quality, were excluded from further analysis.

† To compare those with and without X-ray, T-tests were used for continuous, and Chi-Square tests for dichotomous variables. Values were considered significant if <0.05. ‡ Derived from the self completed patient diaries, which werefilled and returned by >80% of patients.